

## PERTH TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

### THE CLASSES.

The objects of the school may be briefly explained. This school does not aim at teaching trades, as these must be acquired by apprenticeship in the workshops of the various trades. It offers, however, to those apprenticed to or engaged in the trades a chance of bettering their education or of learning the scientific principles underlying many of the operations of their trades. The classes are of the following kinds:—

1. Science Classes and Technical Classes.—No rigid distinction can be maintained between these two classes, since technical education is mainly education in science, always with special reference to its application in the arts. Some of the science classes will, however, not be strictly speaking technical classes, but will provide general instruction in various branches of science for students not necessarily connected with the trades. The technical classes proper will provide for apprentices and others instruction in the principles underlying the operations of the crafts in which they are engaged. Science classes will be conducted by the director for the benefit of the senior pupils of the State schools.

2. Manual Training Classes.—These classes provide training for such as desire to acquire dexterity in working wood or iron, etc. Manual training classes in woodwork are conducted for day scholars by Mr. Felix Storer, the manual training instructor, at the workshop beside the main State school in James-street; and in metal work at the metal-working shop behind the Old Boys' School, St. George's-terrace. Evening classes for adults, in carpentry, under Mr. Storer's direction, will be conducted by Mr. Powell if a sufficient number apply.

3. Art Classes.—The intention of the art school is the thorough training of students in the practice of art, professional or amateur, and is either directed pictorially, or in regard to decoration and design, according to the taste or wishes of the pupil. Special attention is given to the subject of design, and to all branches of art which are likely to assist trades or professions.

The following is a list of the subjects:—

jects:—

Chemistry.—This branch of science will receive chief attention as not only of great general interest, but also as having a wide application to most branches of arts and manufactures. As soon as the students have mastered the elements of the science, attempts will be made to specialise the work to suit the various needs of students.

Mineralogy.—The study of this subject is of importance, especially to miners and prospectors in a colony rich like Western Australia, in minerals, but whose mineral wealth has not yet been fully exploited. The work of the class will be so directed as to enable students to recognise by blow-pipe tests all common economic minerals, and by their form and other characters gems and precious stones.

Geology.—The study of the general subject will be undertaken, and the students will be made familiar, so far as possible by fieldwork, with the application of the more important geological terms.

Metallurgy.—The elements of this subject, only so far as of importance or interest to the assayer, will be taught. At present, in the absence of an experimental plant, the school cannot offer efficient instruction in the complete subject. At an early date it is hoped that the school may be in a position to teach the subject fully.

Assaying.—This subject will be fully treated both theoretically and practically, and a complete course of instruction will be offered to students desiring to enter the profession of assaying.

On the subject of the course for assayers, the prospectus states:—"An assayer, to be proficient, requires not only expertness in the art of assaying and a good knowledge of the chemical reactions concerned in his work, but also a fair acquaintance with the subjects of mineralogy, geology, and metallurgy. The first of these three subjects is of especial importance, as a determination of the mineral character of a sample is frequently an indispensable preliminary to the assay itself. A knowledge of geology may also often serve to guide the assayer in his judgment of the nature of rock specimens often brought to assay offices for report. At least an elementary knowledge of metallurgy is desirable, since an assayer has to deal with many metallurgical products. It is intended that a Government certificate

with many metallurgical products. It is intended that a Government certificate as assayer be issued to students on completing satisfactorily the required course of study. No partial certificates or certificates for part of a course will be issued. It is expected that students giving their whole time to the work will be able to complete the course in two years. Those attending evening classes only will require at least three years. The term of attendance at classes may be shortened to those producing satisfactory evidence of previous instruction in the subjects of the course (e.g., certificates from colonial or other schools of mines of good standing). These students may, at the option of the director, be required to present for examination in the whole or part of any subject in which they have received exemption from attendance at classes. Attendance at classes in assaying may also, at the discretion of the director, be dispensed with, in whole or in part, in the case of students employed daily in the practice of assaying in any assay office of good repute. These students will, however, be required to pass the class examinations. The fee for the course in assaying (including instruction in mineralogy, geology and elementary metallurgy) for two years in the case of day students and three years in the case of evening students will be £25. No extra

fee will be charged if the student extends his course over an extra year. Apparatus will be supplied at cost price, and a refund allowed on all apparatus returned at end of year. Students in assaying must bear the cost of crucibles used, but all other requisites, chemicals, fluxes, fuel and gas are supplied free. Students before joining the class in assaying must have attended the chemistry classes for one year, or must satisfy the director that they have sufficient knowledge of chemistry to profit by the instruction in the assaying classes."